

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### THIRTY-ONE ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY TEAMS SET UP

The first phase of a priority undertaking to restore endangered animals in the United States to a healthy balance in the wild was announced today with the naming of 31 teams of wildlife experts by Keith M. Schreiner, Associate Director of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each team will be responsible for developing a recovery plan designed to the specific needs of one animal or of several animals occupying a common ecosystem.

The animals on which this formal, broadbased effort will focus are the greenback cutthroat trout, Rocky Mountain peregrine falcon, Maryland darter, Columbian white-tailed deer, Santa Cruz salamander, American peregrine falcon (eastern population), Cui-ui, San Joaquin kit fox, light-footed clapper rail, Hawaiian waterbirds (coots, stilts, and gallinules), California condor, Kauai forest birds, Northern Rocky Mountain wolf, Warm Springs pupfish, eastern timber wolf, the California least tern, Yuma clapper rail, Mexican duck, Laysan duck, Nene, Palila, black-footed ferret, Maui/Molokai forest birds, red wolf, Delmarva fox squirrel, American alligator, Indiana bat, Mississippi sandhill crane, Kirtland's warbler, dusky seaside sparrow, and the blue pike.

The 31 teams named today are the first of an anticipated total of 50 to 60 recovery teams that the Fish and Wildlife Service will form and set to work between now and July 1, 1975. Each team will comprise three to six wildlife experts drawn from private, academic, and government organizations.

The species announced today include animals that are in critical condition in the wild and animals with which a reasonable degree of success is likely or which have been the subject of considerable field research programs for some time.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 gives Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Department of Commerce lead responsibilities for developing a national effort to restore endangered species. States, other Federal agencies, and various private organizations are already active in many programs designed to restore endangered species.

All 31 teams will draw up specific plans denoting specific actions needed, objectives, and time frames for accomplishment of the actions taken to restore the individual species. These plans will be reviewed regularly and changed as tasks are completed and the animal's situation changes.

Team leaders named today and their affiliations are:

Eastern timber wolf	Ralph Bailey	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Greenback cutthroat trout	Rolf Nittmann	Colorado Division of Wildlife
Rocky Mountain peregrine falcon	Gerald Craig	Colorado Division of Wildlife
Maryland darter	Charles Frisbie	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Columbian white-tailed deer	David Fisher	U.S.F.W.S
Santa Cruz salamander	Eldon Vestal	California Department of Fish and Game
American peregrine falcon (eastern population)	Alexander C. Nagy	Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association
Cui-ui (edible fish of the sucker family)	Earl Pyle	U.S.F.W.S.
San Joaquin kit fox	Howard Leach	California Department of Fish and Game
Light-footed clapper rail	Sanford R. Wilbur	U.S.F.W.S.
Hawaiian waterbirds	Ronald L. Walker	Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
California condor	Sanford R. Wilbur	U.S.F.W.S.
Kauai forest birds	John Sincock	U.S.F.W.S.

Northern Rocky Mountain wolf	Dennis Flath	Montana Fish and Game Department
Warm Springs pupfish	James Yoakum	U.S.F.W.S.
California least tern	Ronald Jurek	California Department of Fish and Game
Yuma clapper rail	Robert Delaney	U.S.F.W.S.
Mexican duck	Richard W. Rigby	U.S.F.W.S.
Laysan duck	Palmer Sekora	U.S.F.W.S.
Nene (Hawaiian goose)	Ernest Kosaka	Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
Palila (Hawaiian honey- creeper)	Andrew Berger	University of Hawaii
Black-footed ferret	Raymond L. Linder	South Dakota State University
Maui/Molokai forest birds	Michael Scott	U.S.F.W.S.
Red wolf	Russel Clapper	U.S.F.W.S.
Delmarva fox squirrel	Bernard F. Halla	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
American alligator	Ted Joanen	Louisiana Wildlife and Fish Commission
Indiana bat	James M. Engle	U.S.F.W.S.
Mississippi sandhill crane	Jacob Valentine	U.S.F.W.S.
Kirtland's warbler	John Byelich	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Dusky seaside sparrow	James L. Baker	U.S.F.W.S.
Blue pike	Arden J. Trandahl	U.S.F.W.S.

Membership on the 31 teams includes representatives from the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, and the Agriculture Department's Forest Service, the National Audubon Society, Tundra Films, Smithsonian Institution, California Department of Transportation, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Council, California Food and Agriculture Department, Office of Environmental Management of the County of San Diego, 20 State fish and game commissions, and 12 universities: Oregon State University, University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, California State University, University of Montana, University of Nevada, University of Hawaii, University of Maryland, University of Maine, Louisiana State University, Purdue University, and Colorado College.